

Message Text

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SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH CONFLICT OVER SHELF DELIMITATION

FROM US DEL LOS

FOR INGERSOLL, MAW, SISCO, ATHERTON, ALDRICH, AND MCINTYRE (D/LOS)

FROM STEVENSON AND MOORE

1. U.S. REP MOORE AND STRAITS TEAM MET AUGUST 23 WITH TEAM OF GREEKS HEADED BY VICE ADMIRAL KONIALIS, DEP. HEAD OF GREEK LOS DELEGATION, TO DISCUSS STRAITS ISSUES. IN STRONG PRESENTATION OF WHAT GREEK REP SAID WAS MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY, KONIALIS SHIFTED IMMEDIATELY TO DELIMITATION ISSUES AND UNEQUIVOCALLY LINKED ANY PROGRESS TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. POSITION ON STRAITS TO SOLUTION OF DELIMITATION PROBLEM WITH TURKEY, DECLARING SITUATION SO SERIOUS THAT QTE WAR UNQTE MAY BE IMMINENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER MEMBER OF GREEK LOS DEL SAID SITUATION WAS EXPLOSIVE WITHIN A MATTER OF A FEW WEEKS. GREEK TEAM SHOWED ON MAP (POUCHED TO DEPT) NOVEMBER 1973 TURKISH UNILATERAL SHELF EXTENSIONS AND SKETCHED IN FURTHER EXTENSIONS SAID MADE WITHIN RECENT DAYS, EVEN EXCEEDING MEDIUM-LINE PRINCIPLES INDICATING AREAS WHERE TRUKISH EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS GRANTED. TURKISH EBJECTIVES, SAID KINIALIS, WERE TO TAKE OVER GREEK ISLANDS WITHIN SHELF DECREE AREA, AND DECLARED THAT MIGRATION OF GREEKS TO CONTINENTAL GREECE ALREADY UNDER WAY SINCE PROMULGATION OF TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF LAW. HE EMPHASIZED THAT

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ALTHOUGH TURKISH EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES HAD SO FAR BEEN LIMITED

TO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FROM THE WATER COLUMN, AS SOON AS THEY TOUCHED THE GREEK SHELF, GREECE WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACT TO DEFEND ITS TERRITORY. KONIALIS SAID DURING MGT GREECE QTE HAD BEEN A GOOD ALLY FOR 23 YEARS AND HAD NOT HEARD A WORD OF SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. FOR THEIR POSITION UNQTE.

2. MOORE INDICATED U.S. DEL UNDERSTOOD SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND WOULD RELAY POINTS MADE TO WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: GREEK LOS TEAM EMOTIONALLY CAUGHT UP IN DELIMITATION ISSUE

AND SEEMED TO BE SEEKING HELP TO AVOID WHAT THEY SIGNALLED WAS LIKELY TO BE WAR WITH TURKEY OVER ISLAND AND BOUNDARY DELIMITATION ISSUES IN AEGEAN UNLEKI ISSUES OTHERWISE RESOLVED. FROM AN LOS STANDPOINT, IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL PROGRESS ON GREEK SUPPORT FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS NOW CLEARLY LINKED TO SOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH SHELF DELIMITATION PROBLEM. AT AUG. 23 DISCUSSION WITH TURKS ON ISLAND DELIMITATION ISSUES, TURKS SEEMED MOST CONCERNED WITH ACCESS RIGHTS AND POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT TO TURKEY RESULTING FROM POTENTIAL EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA FROM 6 TO 12 MILES. ON OTHER HAND, AT PRESENT MEETING, GREEKS SEEMED MOST CONCERNED ABOUT SHELF RIGHTS AND THREAT TO LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY OF GREEK ISLANDS ADJACENT TO ALLEGED TURKISH COAST BY TURKISH SHELF CLAIMS. PERHAPS THE DIFFERENCE IN CONCERN WOULD PERMIT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT IF THE PARTIES COULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER. FROM STRICTLY LOS PERSPECTIVE, TURKS HAVE SUBSTANTIAL INFUENCE WITH KEY ARAB GROUP AND HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE TO U.S. POSITIONS ON STRAITS, ARCHIPELAGO, INSTALLATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUES AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TURKISH SUPPORT NOT BE LOST IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN GREEK SUPPORT.
STEVENSON

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